

MANY SCHOOLS IN U. S. FOUND TO BE SERIOUS MENACE

Tens of Thousands of Children Are Reported Housed in Firetraps.

429 CITIES REPORT

453,000 Pupils Either on Half Time Study or in Un-suited Quarters.

NEED MORE PLAYGROUND

Survey Conducted by Chamber of Commerce Committee Reveals Serious Needs.

Tens of thousands of school children housed in firetraps and hundreds of thousands of them either on half time or in makeshift buildings is the condition in 429 cities of the United States, as disclosed in a report made public here yesterday.

The report was issued by the National Committee for Chamber of Commerce cooperation with the public schools on a survey conducted by the American City Bureau.

The committee was organized in February, 1920, to inquire into school conditions. Its executive committee is headed by George D. Strayer of Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York.

The evidence presented "shows clearly that there are tens of thousands of children now housed in old, unsanitary, dangerous buildings," says Mr. Strayer in his introduction to the report. "Many of these structures are best classified as firetraps."

Data was received from 429 cities. The report says: "These facts, obtained from 75 per cent. of all the cities reporting, show that in these cities, even excluding those housed in annexes where conditions may be normal, there are more than 453,000 children who are either on half time because of lack of building space or are housed in portable, rented buildings, attics, basements or corridors. It would require an average of two thirty room buildings in each of these cities to properly house these groups of children alone."

The report sets forth statistically the inadequacy of playground space. "It is clear that in many cities children are now housed in buildings in which there is less space on the playground than is supplied in the classrooms in which they are taught," says Mr. Strayer in the introduction.

"Three million six hundred thousand children are represented in this report on playgrounds," it is stated, "and the study discloses that one-half of them, 1,800,000 children—have each a playground less than six by six feet per pupil, and many of them have no playground at all."

"These facts of limited playground space," says the report, "present one of the serious problems confronting those who are interested in the welfare of American school children. Whatever the cost, adequate playground space should be provided for these school buildings already erected in congested districts. Public sentiment must become so strong that it will be considered a breach of trust for school authorities to erect a school building on a site that will not afford adequate playground space for all the pupils housed in the building."

On the subject of fire hazard in schools the report states: "Only 2 per cent. of the total number of buildings are of the type of construction usually called fireproof. Only a small number have fireproofing elements to lessen the fire hazard to the children. At least 25 per cent. of the two poorest types of buildings are of two or more stories and do not have a fire escape. Thirty-nine per cent. of these two types are without fire extinguishers and less than 10 per cent. of them have automatic sprinkler equipment in any part of the buildings. Only 11 per cent. have automatic fire alarms. Such facts as these demonstrate the existence of a real menace to the children of these cities." One-half of present day schools were built prior to 1897.

The report directs attention to "the large number of children between the ages of 13 and 16 years who leave the public schools," and adds: "There probably is no more serious problem or one more difficult to solve now facing the people of this country."

According to the reports from 299 cities 6 per cent. of the children have left school before their thirteenth year, 19 per cent. before 14, 38 per cent. before 15, and 44 per cent. before they are 16 years old.

"In the geographical groups," the report continues, "the highest per cent. of these children remain in the Western cities. Next in order are the great plains cities, then the Southern, the great lakes, and lowest of all are the Eastern cities. In this last group only 23 per cent. of the children 16 years of age, and 55 per cent. of those from 14 to 16 years, inclusive, are in school."

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\$11,000,000 Fur Auction Ends as Big Success

ST. LOUIS, March 5.—The winter auction at the International Fur Exchange, which opened February 21, ended today with total sales amounting to \$11,070,282. Approximately 11,000,000 pelts were disposed of during the sale.

Despite the present business depression the sale was larger than any ever held elsewhere, it was announced. Three previous sales held here, however, surpassed it.

Philip B. Fouke, president of the exchange, in closing the sale advised the dealers to advertise extensively in newspapers to "provide the motive power for business in 1921."

48 GIRL DANCERS HELD FOR 'SHIMMY' INQUIRY

Prisoners Complain of Rough Handling by Detectives.

Forty-eight young women who spent the night in the West Thirtieth street police station following their arrest in the second raid on Wilson's Dancing Studio, Broadway and Forty-sixth street, were held yesterday in \$100 bail each until next Wednesday. Magistrate Jenn Norris said she wished to investigate the case further.

The girls complained against rough handling by detectives of Inspector William Boettler's staff. They denied their dancing had been anything to excite comment, saying that as their instructors had told them, it was only the sort of "shimmy" that is being done with popular approval at Chicago, Buffalo and elsewhere. The idea that it couldn't be done in New York seemed strange to them.

Magistrate Norris withheld comment on the case.

In West Side Court Magistrate Levine discharged two men who had been arrested for alleged interference with the raiding officers. They were Herbert Grimes, 26, and Lawrence Ross, 35 years old, who gave their occupation as seamen, living at 25 South street. They said detectives rudely pulled away girls with whom they were dancing. Grimes said he was kicked and Ross said he was struck on the nose so that it bled. They denied attacking the officers. While Assistant District Attorney Gibbs was moving for dismissal of the charges, Magistrate Levine interrupted him to remark that he had already signed their discharge.

MARSHAL FOCH DEFERS VISIT TO AMERICA

Will Be Guest of Knights of Columbus Later.

Marshal Foch will be unable to carry out his plan to visit the United States some time this spring, according to a message received yesterday by James A. Flaherty, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. "Pressing matters of state," the message said, would prevent the trip.

When the Lafayette statue was dedicated Marshal Foch said he wanted to visit the United States and join the Knights of Columbus, who do not initiate members abroad. He still intends to come, it is said, as soon as his duties will permit.

GIRL ACCUSES SIX AS BANK ROBBERS

Aids Police Here to Capture Men Suspected of Pennsylvania 'Job.'

JOINED THEM IN FLIGHT

Unwittingly Motored With Them and \$130,000 Loot to This City.

With the assistance of a nineteen-year-old girl police officials declared last night that they had effected the capture of six of the eight men who robbed the People's Trust Company of Wyomissing, Pa., of \$130,000 in cash and securities during the noon hour of February 4, and that they expect soon to have the two remaining fugitives in custody.

The girl, Helen Davis of Reading, Pa., has been spending most of her time in the last two weeks visiting various resorts with detectives, scanning faces and ascertaining if any of the robbers, all of whom she knows by sight, might be among the frequenters of the resorts. Yesterday she went to Hoboken in company with Detective Sergeant James J. Gegan of the police bomb squad of this city and identified Willie Banko, alias "Buff Costello," and Carl Lordy, alias "Scotty," as members of the band.

It was then said by the police that she previously had identified four other prisoners under arrest here and in neighboring cities as participants in the robbery. Miss Davis, according to statements, saw several of the robbers in Reading on the day preceding the robbery. After they had made their escape, leaving the clerks of the bank and customers locked in one of the vaults, they invited her to get into their automobile and take a ride. Not knowing about the crime, she joined their party and rode first to

Philadelphia, where some of the robbers left the party, and then to this city.

It was on her return home, where she learned about the holdup in Wyomissing, a suburb of Reading, that Miss Davis concluded her companions must have been the men responsible and reported the matter to the police, furnishing descriptions of all the members of the party.

Carl Lordy, the last prisoner to be identified by the girl, is said by the police to be wanted in Detroit in connection with the murder of two detectives in the robbery or a bond broker's office there. He was arrested yesterday afternoon as he was about to leave a house at 38 Hudson street, Hoboken, where he had been boarding for several days past.

Banko, who also has been under the aliases "John Russo" and "Kid Brodie," has been under arrest since Tuesday, when he was taken into custody on a tip from his landlady, who said he had been acting suspiciously. He had been living in 1207 Garden street, Hoboken, and he told the police he earned a living as preliminary fighter at boxing exhibitions.

One of the men under arrest for complicity in the crime is James Minogue, who was lodged in the Tombs a week ago, and who is said by Jacob H. Banton, Chief Assistant District Attorney, to have made an indirect offer to reveal the whereabouts of a large part of the bank loot if leniency is extended to him. Minogue was arrested here for connection with the robbery of a Washington Market poultry dealer, and it was on seeing him in Police Headquarters that the Davis girl said he was one of her companions in the flight from Reading. The District Attorney's office is undecided whether to accept Minogue's offer.

WANTED—RATS WITH FLEAS.

Canal Zone Officials Start Plague Prevention Drive.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Canal Zone health authorities are "anxious" for rats, the current Canal Record states, "preferably alive, with the fleas still on them." It was found in clearing an airplane landing near Miraflores Locks that the jungle was swarming with rats and the officials launched a plague prevention crusade.

"We," says the Record, "caught five rats in a few minutes in a space of not more than thirty feet. The biggest of the rats was found to have eight fleas on him."

BEACH TITLE INVOLVED IN GUMPERTZ'S CASE

Parkway Baths Company Claims Ownership.

The title to approximately thirty acres of land on the waterfront from Brighton Beach to Ocean Parkway, part of which is under water, will be involved in the assignment on March 15 of Samuel Gumpertz, manager of the Parkway Baths, who was arrested last Monday when he tore down signs placed by the Park Department on the beach in front of the baths.

Gumpertz contended that the land was privately owned by the Parkway Baths Corporation and that the city had no claim to it. Park Commissioner John H. Harman said yesterday that the property is worth more than \$4,000,000, even if part of it is under water, and that it could easily be reclaimed for park purposes.

"There has been a determined effort for twenty-five years on the part of owners of abutting property to grab this beach property," said Commissioner Harman. "The recent move of the Parkway Baths Corporation in asserting ownership to the park property in question is simply along the line of the fight that has been repeatedly made to get possession of this valuable beach land."

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FIFTEENTH PLEA OF GUILTY.

John C. O'Neill pleaded guilty before Justice McAvoy in the Supreme Court yesterday in behalf of his firm, Pollock & O'Neill, as well as himself, of having violated the Donnelly anti-trust law. He

and the firm were indicted on December 20 with fifty other members of John T. Hettrick's group of master plumbers. Fifteen have now pleaded guilty and others are expected to do so on Monday, the day set for the trials. No sentences will be imposed until all the cases have been disposed of.

45 SAIL FOR CUBA.
Forty-five passengers sailed yesterday for Cuba on the Munson liner Munamar. Among the voyagers were Irwin C. Arthur, American consul at Antilla, Mrs. Arthur, Mr. and Mrs. Guy W. Britt, Edward R. Underwood and Facundo Bacardi, the distiller.

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During the past few months, the business of the entire country has been passing through a situation of this sort. Yet the Hathaway business, far from suffering, has surpassed the activity of the corresponding periods of former years.

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Wraps Ermine Full Length \$900	Wraps Broadtail Full Length \$900	Wraps A Selection of Mink Full Length \$900	Wraps Natural Russian Sable Full Length \$5,000	Wraps Kolinsky Full Length \$500	Wraps Natural Grey Squirrel \$250
Coats Natural Muskrat 36-Inch Length \$125	Coats Natural Raccoon 36-Inch Length \$200	Coats Natural Opossum 36-Inch Length \$100	Coats French Seal 40-Inch Length \$100	Coats French Seal Full Length Various Beautiful Models \$125	Coats Black Caracul 36-Inch Length \$125
Hudson Seal Coats 36-Inch Length, in a Super Quality of Soft, Fine Skins, Full Flare, Beautifully Lined, eat Deep Collars and Cuffs of the Best Quality Skunk \$250		Russian Pony Coats with great, deep collar of high grade Natural Skunk Natural Raccoon Natural clear blue Australian Opossum \$75		Hudson Seal or Genuine Mole Wraps Full length variety of models \$300	
BOAS Natural Fisher Small Full Furred Skins, Good Color \$100	BOAS Baum Marten \$25	BOAS Foxes Taupe or Brown \$25	BOAS Australian Opossum \$8	BOAS Grey Squirrel \$9	BOAS Blue Fox \$75
BOAS FOXES Natural White \$75 Natural Blue \$140 Natural Black \$150	MEN'S FUR COLLARED COATS Finest Imported Irish Woolens, in brown, grey and dark green Heather Mixtures. Collars are of Beaver and Unplucked Otter. These collars alone are worth more than the price at which we are selling these coats. \$75 Finest Domestic Woolens, in grey, brown and green Heather Mixtures. Also black. Collars are of Hudson Seal, Seal Dyed Otter, Persian Lamb and Nutria. \$50				BOAS Natural Russian CROWN SABLE \$450 Natural Hudson Bay \$50 Tipped Hudson Bay \$45

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